

## Northwest Review

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SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1906.

### Calendar for Next Week.

- 18—Third Sunday in Lent. Solemnity  
(anticipated) of the Feast of St.  
Joseph.  
19—Monday—St. Joseph, Spouse of the  
Blessed Virgin and Patron of the  
Universal Church. Eleventh Anni-  
versary of the consecration of the  
Most Rev. A. Langevin, Archbishop  
of St. Boniface.  
20—Tuesday—St. Cyril of Jerusalem.  
Bishop, Doctor.  
21—Wednesday—St. Benedict, Abbot,  
Founder of the Benedictine Order.  
22—Thursday—St. Gabriel, Archangel  
(transferred from the 18th inst.)  
23—Friday—The Five Wounds.  
24—Saturday—Votive office of the  
Immaculate Conception.

### DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BRANDON UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday of last week a lively  
debate took place before the Law  
Amendments Committee of the Mani-  
toba Legislature between the Baptists  
of Brandon College, which is seeking  
degree conferring powers, and several  
members of the Manitoba University  
Council.

#### Rev. Dr. McDiarmid,

principal of Brandon College, submitted  
first: that the primary obligation of  
education rests upon the parent, and  
this implies a corresponding right pro-  
viding there is no interference with the  
rights of others. Only in a secondary  
sense is education the work of the state,  
as when parents refuse to recognize  
their obligation and allow their children  
to grow up in ignorance, or when circum-  
stances in the state call for special edu-  
cation. Baptists were prepared in  
primary education to leave this in the  
hands of the state, as pupils of that age  
are subject to home training; but when  
the child goes away from home, the  
important matter of character must be  
considered. If the state establishes a  
monopoly of higher education it in-  
fringes on the right of parents. The  
state says, 'You must educate your  
child according to this curriculum; it  
does not leave the parent free to carry  
out his own convictions. Objections

to taking advantage of the university  
instruction were that the students have  
to be sent to Winnipeg to study sci-  
entific subjects; that fees have to be paid  
for examiners sent to Brandon. The  
students are required to pass examina-  
tions in arts on papers prepared by  
teachers in the Winnipeg colleges.  
They have to take a curriculum of  
study placed in their hands—they have  
no choice as to the course of studies.  
The passing of the bill would mean the  
investment of a large amount of money  
from without the province in education  
here. It would mean also bringing in  
students from without, especially from  
the western provinces; as it is proposed  
to have academies in all the provinces  
which will be feeders to the new uni-  
versity. This policy will increase the  
assets of the province in mental and  
moral character. The speaker referred  
to Queen's university as an institution  
with 900 to 1,000 students doing an im-  
mense work in the upbuilding of mental  
and moral life. The passing of the  
bill would mean a somewhat different  
ideal in respect to education; it is not  
to the advantage of the province to  
have only one ideal. In the Maritime  
Provinces there is a university for  
every 178,000 of population, and this is  
the best educated part of the Dominion.  
In Ontario there are seven chartered  
universities, a university for every  
309,000 of population; in the United  
States there is one for every 160,000.  
Scotland had four universities when  
there was less than a million people.  
The speaker objected to a compromise  
curriculum; the university curriculum  
was not such as any one of the colleges  
would consider the best if acting for  
itself alone. Rev. Father Drummond  
was quoted as having said that St.  
Boniface College had to make some  
sacrifices, had to omit some of their best  
authors, could not have what they  
thought the best studies, which they  
considered a distinct disadvantage to  
the curriculum. The preponderance of  
the judgment of the world was against  
the one university idea. France had  
tried it but had abandoned it and was  
restoring autonomy to the universities.  
The Baptists, in making their present  
request, guarantee that they will never  
ask for provincial help; that the stand-  
ard of their university will be as high  
as that of the provincial university;  
that its affairs would be completely  
open to inspection by the legislature,  
and that its doors will be open to  
students of all creeds on precisely the  
same basis.

After Mr. G. R. Coldwell, Mayor  
Fleming and Alderman Cléments, re-  
presenting Brandon, had supported the  
application of Brandon College,

#### Mr. Isaac Pitblado

reviewed the policy of the province  
towards university powers since the  
establishment of the university in 1877.  
He denied that there was any opposition  
to free trade in education or any opposi-  
tion to Brandon College. The question  
was whether any particular body of men  
should be enabled to grant degrees, or  
whether there should be the highest  
standard and every degree should have  
the stamp of uniformity on it. There  
was free trade in education, and the  
council came in by affiliation. They  
have absolute freedom in teaching and



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there is no restraint on their internal  
arrangement. Provision was made for  
other colleges coming in; Brandon  
College could affiliate and be entitled  
to representation on the university  
colleges, take the uniform examina-  
tions and receive the degrees. The  
university had had all classes and denom-  
inations sitting together at the council  
board and at the examinations; this  
seemed to the speaker to be an ideal  
position, and the policy of one university  
a good policy. It had been re-enacted  
by every government from the early  
days. The government had aided the  
teaching and appointed and paid pro-  
fessors, and it had eight representatives  
in the council; so that the policy was  
that of a state university, in which all  
diversities of creed received recognition;  
and all degrees received the sanction  
of the state. As coming from the mar-  
time Provinces himself, he spoke from  
personal knowledge of the existence  
of too many universities there as an  
injury to the institutions, and told of  
the desire of leading educationists there  
for such a system as we have here to  
raise the standard.

#### Rev. Dr. Wilson,

pastor of Augustine Presbyterian  
Church, as against Dr. McDiarmid,  
held that the state had the right to  
educate children. He charged the  
Baptists with inconsistency in depart-  
ing from their principle by confiding the  
primary education of their children to  
the state. He disputed the assertion  
that the preponderating opinion of the  
world was against the one university

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